

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are submitted in response to the first Office action in an effort to place the application in condition for allowance as hereinafter pointed out.

Applicants herein respectfully submit a complete set of replacement drawing sheets (sheets 1-3), which replace all of the original drawings.

The specification and claims are hereby amended without insertion of new matter so as to clarify the description of the subject invention and emphasize patentable distinctions thereof over the prior art references of record utilized for the rejections set forth in the Office action.

In regard to the grid sensor array, as referred to in paragraph 1, page 2 of the Office action, the specification and FIG 5 of the drawing respectively describes: (1) "--plates 44 having sensor elements 46--to form sensing grid or arrays 48--" and (2) illustrates such features of the grid sensor as set forth by recitations in claims 4, 5 and 7. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as set forth under paragraph 3, on page 2 of the Office action should be withdrawn.

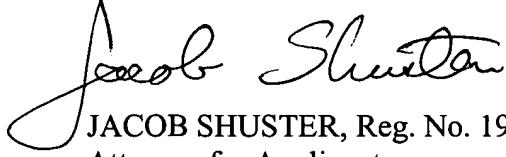
In regard to the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as set forth in paragraph 6 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended so as to avoid such rejection. Thus amended claim 1 now specifies "reception means for receiving each to the vehicles--", while amended claims 3 and 6 specify "--screw drive device connected to the reception means to impart said displacement thereto in two 90° related directions". Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore believed to be in order.

Claims 1-7 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Makino, Montgomery et al., Bratlie, Coblenz and Merkle et al. patents of record as set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the

Office action. According to the disclosure in the Makino patent, the container transport vehicle (232) is positioned by a truck (21) directly on the dockside pier rather than on a wheeled platform, so as to involve a structural and functional arrangement that is totally different from the container transferring system associated with the present invention to which amended claim 1 is limited. Modification of the container transfer system disclosed in the Makino patent pursuant the different container transfer systems respectively disclosed in the Montgomery et al., Brathie, Coblenz and Merkle et al. patents as proposed on pages 2-4 of the Office action would not therefore result in the arrangement associated with the container transfer system of the present invention. Claim 1 as amended therefore distinguishes over the prior art by specifying: "reception means on the platform for receiving each of the vehicles with the container thereon-- and sensing means--for locationally detecting movement of the containers--and directionally controlling said displacement of the reception means with the containers--into operative alignment--".

An allowance of amended claim 1 together with claims 2-7 dependent therefrom is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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